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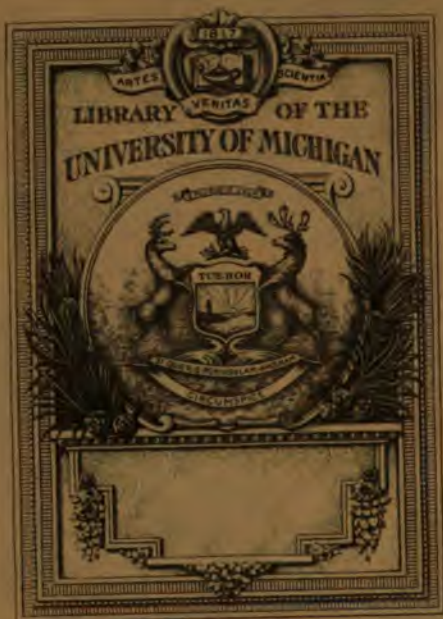
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INTERNATIONAL BUREAU OF AMERICAN REPUBLICS

JAMES HARRIS, DIRECTOR

WASHINGTON, D. C.

BOLIVIA

GENERAL DESCRIPTIVE DATA

PREPARED IN JUNE

1909



WASHINGTON

ANDERSON & COMPANY, PRINTERS

1909

the
INTERNATIONAL BUREAU OF AMERICAN REPUBLICS
JOHN BARRETT, DIRECTOR
FRANCISCO J. YANES, SECRETARY

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WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
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BOLIVIA

The Republic of Bolivia, the third largest of the South American Republics, is one of the few countries on the American continent which possesses no seacoast. Completely surrounded by the Republics of Peru, Chile, Argentina, Paraguay, and Brazil it extends over 709,000 square miles, equal to the combined area of Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Utah, Idaho, and Arizona. It has a population of 2,267,935, or 3.2 per square mile, as against 23.2 per square mile in the United States of America, and is the most sparsely populated of any of the American Republics. The vast plateau which extends in length over 500 miles, at an average altitude of 12,000 feet above sea level, and on which are situated most of the larger cities of the Republic, is the most noted topographical feature of the country.

The mountains of Bolivia abound in mineral wealth, tin, silver, gold, copper, etc., and these form the principal products of export. Coffee, cacao, tobacco, sugar cane, and other crops are successfully cultivated. The forests contain numerous species of valuable woods, best known of which are the *hevea brasiliensis* and the *castilloa elastica*, from which india rubber is gathered; the erythroxylon coca, the leaves of which are used for medicinal purposes; and the well-known cinchona tree, the bark of which is used for the manufacture of quinine.

HISTORICAL SKETCH.

PIZARRO having conquered the Inca Empire, invaded the territory of what is now Bolivia in 1532, finding there a race of peaceful Indians, whom he subdued with comparative ease. He divided the country between his brothers, HERNANDO and GONZALO PIZARRO, who soon enforced the customary system of "encomiendas," whereby a certain number of Indian slaves was granted to each settler, and these unfortunates made to labor for the benefit of their oppressor. When the rich silver mines were discovered the country was rapidly settled by numerous adventurers, but so cruel and exacting became the settlers in their greed for gold and silver that the Indians revolted, and in the year 1870, led by TUPAC AMARU, the last descendant of the Incas, killed the Spanish authorities and drove some of the settlers out of the country. They were, however, ultimately overcome, and TUPAC AMARU and all of his family executed in the most barbarous manner:

The first and the last blood spent in the struggle of the Spanish colonies against Spain for independence was shed on Bolivian soil. This contest began on March 25, 1809, when the inhabitants of La Paz deposed the Spanish authorities, and ended when independence was finally achieved in the year 1825 through the combined efforts of BOLIVAR, SAN MARTIN, and SUCRE.

The battle of Ayacucho, December 9, 1824, in which the Spanish forces were almost annihilated, practically decided the fate of Bolivia, and on April 1, 1825, General SUCRE completely routed the last Spanish forces in upper Peru (Bolivia), compelling them to abandon the country.

A constitutional congress met at Chuquisaca on August 6, 1825, and, declaring that upper Peru should thereafter be free and independent, adopted the name of Bolivia, in honor of Gen. SIMÓN BOLIVAR, the liberator. The constitution, which had been drafted by BOLIVAR, was adopted with some amendments and formally proclaimed on November 19, 1826, General SUCRE being elected



SR. DON ELIODORO VILLAZÓN,
PRESIDENT OF BOLIVIA.

President for a term of two years. He was succeeded by General SANTA CRUZ, who, in the year 1835, involved Bolivia in the first war with Chile, which ended in 1838. Bolivia was not, however, to enjoy peace for any length of time, for under the Presidency of General DAZA, in the year 1879, war again broke out with the Republic of Chile, being formally declared by Bolivia on April 5, 1879. A treaty of peace was signed between the two countries on November 24, 1884, whereby Bolivia ceded to Chile the Province of Antofagasta.

On March 21, 1905, a further treaty was negotiated between the two countries, whereby Chile agreed to build a railway from the port of Arica to the city of La Paz, the capital of Bolivia, which will become an important outlet for the products of Bolivia.

On November 17, 1903, Bolivia ceded to Brazil the territory of the Acre for a consideration of \$10,000,000. This sum is now being invested by Bolivia in railways and other public works.

Dr. FERNANDO E. GUACHALLA was elected President for the term beginning August 6, 1904, but died before he could assume the duties of the office, and JOSÉ ISMAEL MONTOS was designated by Congress to retain the position pending a new election. Dr. ELIODORO VILLAZÓN was elected to assume the office on August 6, 1909.

CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT.

Under the constitution, which was promulgated on October 17, 1880, the Republic of Bolivia adopted the democratic representative

form of government, the people delegating their power to three distinct and coordinate branches of government—legislative, executive, and judicial.

The Legislature consists of two houses, the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies, the former consisting of 16 and the latter of 72 members. Senators are elected for six years and deputies for four years, but both houses are renewed every two years, the Senate by thirds and the Chamber of Deputies by halves. Both senators and deputies are elected by direct vote of the people.

The President and two Vice-Presidents are elected for a term of four years and may not be reelected for the term immediately following the incumbency of their respective offices.

The judiciary consists of one national supreme court composed of seven judges, the superior district courts (one in each department), the provincial courts, and parochial courts.

President.....	Dr. ELIODORO VILLAZÓN.
First Vice-President, President of the Senate.....	Dr. MACARIO PINILLA.
Second Vice-President.....	Dr. J. MISAEL SARACHO.
Minister of Foreign Affairs.....	Sr. BENEDICTO GOYTÍA.
Minister of Development and Promotion.....	Dr. JOSÉ CARRASCO.
Minister of Treasury and Industry.....	Dr. A. DIEZ DE MEDINA.
Minister of Justice and Public Instruction.....	Dr. D. SANCHEZ BUSTAMANTE.
Minister of Colonization and Agriculture.....	Dr. ISAAC ARANIBAR.

The salary of the president is Bs 18,000 per annum (\$7,200).

INTERIOR GOVERNMENT.

For administrative purposes the country is divided into eight Departments, which are again divided into provinces, the latter into cantones or districts, and these again into municipalities.

The Departments are governed by a prefect, appointed by the President of the Republic for a term of four years, while the provinces are governed by a subprefect, also appointed by the President for a term of four years, as are the other authorities. A *consejo municipal* or municipal board is elected by the people for each municipal district or town, to assist the authorities appointed by the President.

The following are the Departments of Bolivia and their respective capitals:

Department of—	Capital.
Beni.....	Trinidad.
Chuquisaca.....	Sucre.
Cochabamba.....	Cochabamba.
La Paz.....	La Paz.
Potosí.....	Potosí.
Oruro.....	Oruro.
Santa Cruz.....	Santa Cruz.
Tarija.....	Tarija.

The largest city and commercial center of Bolivia is the city of La Paz, with a population of 80,000. Other cities with a population of over 20,000 are Sucre, Cochabamba, Santa Cruz, and Oruro.

BOLIVIA IN 1908.

Bolivia's economic advance under President MONTES, whose term of office expired in 1908, was noteworthy and the continuance of his enlightened policies seems secured under the administration of President VILLAZON. Cordial relations were maintained with the nations of the Old and New World, and satisfactory conditions characterized the commercial and industrial position of the country.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

In July, a commercial treaty with Germany was arranged providing for reciprocal favored nation treatment in all matters relating to import, export, and transit conditions. The treaty is to remain in effect for ten years unless denounced within a specified period. Other international pacts entered into are a commercial treaty with Great Britain, an extradition treaty with Belgium, and adherence by the Government to the International Telegraphic Convention of St. Petersburg, through all of which important advantages were obtained.

The evidence in the boundary question with Peru has been finally submitted, and the arbitral award in the case will shortly be made. The convention of January 30, 1908, regulating trade in transit through Peru is now in force, a custom-house at the Peruvian port of Mollendo having been constructed solely for the use of Bolivian trade.

The work of delimiting the frontier with Brazil made satisfactory progress, and the development of closer relations with that republic is to be fostered through the conclusion of a commercial treaty.

New regulations to the great advantage of Bolivian traffic have been made for the transit trade through Argentine territory. A consequent stimulus to business between the two countries will result.

In recapitulating the results of the last presidential period no fact is more noteworthy than the provision made for the outlet of Bolivian products both on the Pacific and Atlantic through treaties and conventions made and projected with the neighboring Republics of Chile, Peru, Brazil, and the Argentine.

FINANCE.

The budget for the year 1908 showed revenues of \$8,000,000 and expenses of \$9,000,000, leaving a deficit of \$1,000,000. The revenues for 1909 are estimated at \$6,283,000.

Bolivia has adopted the pound sterling as the monetary basis, the *boliviano* being valued at 19½d. Since the year 1905 the pound sterling has been current at this rate, now fixed by law. Monetary reform made further progress in 1908 through another act of Congress which declared silver currency simply an adjunct of gold, reserved to the Government the right to coin silver for circulation to the extent of 4,000,000 *bolivianos*. The Government secured a loan of \$2,500,000, the proceeds of which were used in the payment of the internal debt, the installation of machinery in the mint, and the erection of public buildings. A special sinking fund amounting to 603,300 *bolivianos* annually was created to meet the interest and amortization of the bonds. Under decree of the Government the exportation of gold coins free of duty was permitted and a further decree fixed the proportion of customs duties payable in gold, assessing the value of the Peruvian pound when tendered in settlement of these duties at 12.50 *bolivianos*.

On December 31, 1908, the five principal banks of Bolivia had silver coin on hand to the value of \$516,600.

COMMERCE.

For the past four years Bolivia has enjoyed a period of steadily increasing commercial activity. While the aggregate of transactions for 1908 did not reach the proportions of the previous year, the trade balance remained still in favor of the Republic. The trade volume totaled \$33,837,000, exports amounting to \$17,514,000 and imports to \$16,323,000. Although these figures as compared with 1907 showed a decline of \$1,454,600, the gain in imports was a notable feature of the year's transactions. The fact that, despite the decrease in value of its own products in foreign markets and resultant falling off in its exports, Bolivia was able to increase its purchasing power by over \$1,000,000 may be taken as ample evidence of its economic development.

Tin, the most important item on the list, was shipped abroad to the value of \$13,800,000, a decline of \$156,400 as compared with the previous year. Silver shipments showed an increase of \$209,400, reaching a total of \$2,802,000. Rubber shipments showed a decline amounting to nearly 50 per cent, the valuation for 1908 being given as \$1,962,000, an indicated loss of \$1,574,000. The amount shipped in 1908 was 1,640 tons, approximately 830 tons going to Great Britain, 485 to Germany, 165 to Belgium, 120 to France, and 25 to the United States. Exports of copper showed a decrease of \$531,700; bismuth, \$123,200; while gold showed a gain of \$20,600.

Bolivia's imports from the United States showed a total of \$687,307 as compared with \$1,502,622 for the previous year. This decline,

The largest city and commercial
 Paz, with a population of

MINING

The mining industry in the Republic of Peru is one of the most important branches of the national economy. The country is rich in minerals, and the most important minerals are gold, silver, copper, and iron. The mining industry has been the main source of wealth for the country since the time of the Spanish conquest.

Peru has a long history of mining, and the country has produced a large amount of gold and silver. The mining industry has been the main source of wealth for the country since the time of the Spanish conquest. The country has a large number of mines, and the most important ones are located in the Andes. The mining industry has been the main source of wealth for the country since the time of the Spanish conquest.

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Cattle, sheep, and llamas are abundant, and to foment the livestock industry of the country, on February 1, 1909, the Secretary of Colonization and Agriculture inaugurated the National Veterinary Institute.

RAILWAYS.

The present extent of railway in the Republic is about 400 miles, permitting direct travel from Lake Titicaca to Antofagasta. Branch lines are being con-

however, may be attributed to a natural result of world-wide economic conditions, from which conditions the figures for imports in January, 1909 (\$98,000), indicated a speedy recovery. Trade with Germany shows a satisfactory increase during recent years, Bolivian exports to that country, entering through the port of Hamburg, having advanced from \$1,781,000 in 1905 to \$3,404,000 in 1907.

Of the importations for 1907, Germany furnished 16 per cent, the United States 14 per cent, Great Britain 10 per cent, Chile 7 per cent, France 5 per cent, Peru 4 per cent, and Belgium and Italy 3 per cent each, with other countries in a diminishing ratio.

PRODUCTION AND INDUSTRIES.

It is upon her mineral wealth that the Republic mainly depends, and present conditions all point to increased activity in the exploitation of these resources through the constantly increasing foreign demand for the mine products of the country.

The mineral wealth of Bolivia, including nearly all known metals, is widely distributed and very rich and abundant. Great veins of ore containing the precious metals are found in the mountains of the Republic, and while their exploitation is carried on on a considerable scale, yet, due to the lack of labor and capital and adequate transportation facilities, they are not fully developed and in many instances remain entirely virgin. The copper mines of Corocoro and the tin and bismuth mines of the Republic are among the richest in the world.

Bolivian tin, assaying 60 per cent pure, is regulated in price by the Straits product, and the first decline in the price of the latter, reported early in 1908, resulted in a consequent reduction in the value of the country's output. The yield for the year was given as 30,000 tons, worth \$10,756,800, as compared with 28,000 tons, worth \$11,956,800, in 1907, the decreased valuation being caused by a 25 per cent decline in price.

The chief tin-mining center is Huanuni and the leader in production in 1908 was the San Salvadora mine, a small property adjoining the Llalagua. The latter has a monthly output of 400 tons. Much of the ore produced carried silver in small quantities. The Government has imposed an export duty on copper and bismuth, payable fortnightly, under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury.

The principal mineral zones now being exploited on a large scale are: First, the extensive region which, commencing in the basin of the Inambari river, extends from the western confines of the country to Upper Paraguay, and contains within its boundaries the famous placers of San Juan del Oro, Suches, Tipuani, and a number of others equally important. The second district commences in Lipéz

and continues southward through Chayanta, Sur Chichas, Mendez, Cinti, and Acero and terminates in the plains of Santa Cruz. The third zone, which is the richest and most important, extends to Carabaya Peru, and to the sources of the Madre de Dios, Acre, and Purus rivers.

From 1540 to 1750, a period of two hundred and ten years, the gold mines of Bolivia produced \$2,100,000,000. From 1750 to the beginning of the nineteenth century, the mines and placers situated in the provinces of Larecaja and Caupolican produced \$14,000,000, gold, and from 1818 to 1868 the output was 150,770 ounces of gold. The product of the other mines and placers of the nation, from the middle of the eighteenth to the latter part of the nineteenth century, is estimated at \$125,000,000. The annual gold production of Bolivia may be calculated at 17,460 troy ounces, which, at \$20 an ounce, gives a value of \$349,200. The 1907 shipments of bismuth aggregated 153 tons; of copper ingots and ore 3,469 tons; and of silver 149 tons.

Although the production of India rubber showed a very marked decline from the previous year, this industry must still be counted as one of the most important and certain sources of national wealth. The largest rubber-producing districts are located in the national territory of Colonias, the Departments of Beni and Santa Cruz and portions of La Paz and Cochabamba. The two last-named districts also cultivate cacao and coffee while the two former contribute other valuable vegetable products. Upland rice is grown to some extent in the provinces of Azero and Cordillera. A large area of the Republic is well suited to the cultivation of wheat which might be grown in quantities sufficient to meet the needs of the home market, but as yet this branch of agricultural development has been little exploited. This cereal was formerly grown to a considerable extent in the District of Cochabamba, but of late years, due to drought and other causes, cultivation has practically ceased. The present Government, impressed with the importance of stimulating agriculture in the Republic, has imported wheat of superior quality from the United States and Argentine Republic for the purpose of supplying a high grade of seed to home growers.

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RAILWAYS.

The present extent of railway in the Republic is about 400 miles of trunk lines, permitting direct travel from Lake Titicaca to Antofagasta, via Oruro, on the coast of Chile. Branch lines are being constructed from Oruro to Cochabamba and Potosi, and new lines have

been located from Potosi to Tupiza and from La Paz to Puerto Pando. Preliminary work on the railway from Brazil to the Beni region, in the northern part of the Republic, has been commenced. The road as projected will be about 308 miles in length and penetrate a country rich in rubber, cabinet woods, and other forms of natural wealth. The road from Arica, Chile, to La Paz is now under construction, work being carried on in five sections of the line, of which 335 kilometers are in Chilean territory. A joint commission was appointed to inspect the completed section of the line and to examine the construction of the remainder.

On December 1, 1908, President MONTES signed the law recently passed by the Bolivian Congress embodying the changes in the Bolivian Railway Company's concession asked for by the syndicate of capitalists interested in this enterprise. This law will permit the consummation of an agreement between the syndicate and the Antofagasta Railway of Chile and Bolivia.

Communication is carried on between Mollendo, on the Pacific, and La Paz by means of a railroad running from Mollendo to Puno, Peru, on Lake Titicaca, and from thence by boat to Guaqui, Bolivia, and by rail and tramway from the latter point to La Paz.

There is river communication from Villa Bella, Bolivia, to Para, Brazil, on the Amazon River, near the Atlantic Ocean, a distance 2,516 miles, the trip being made in three hundred and fourteen hours. From Para to Lisbon, which is distant 3,263 maritime miles, the journey is made in twelve days.

Communication is had with Montevideo and Buenos Aires by means of the Plate, the Parana, and Paraguay rivers to the Bolivian Port of Suarez, a distance of 1,740 miles, eight days being required for the journey. From Puerto Suarez to Santa Cruz, a distance of 391 miles, there is a wagon road, and from the latter place to Sucre, the capital of the Republic, a distance of 342 miles, the trip can be made on horseback in seven days.

There is rail communication from Buenos Aires to Quiaca on the Bolivian frontier, and from thence a journey of three days can be made in wagons to Tupiza, Bolivia.

The different industrial centers of the Republic are at the present time connected with each other by 1,807 miles of wagon roads.

Bolivia, being entirely landlocked, is naturally dependent on her neighbors for external means of communication. The country may be reached either by way of the west coast, with one of the many steamers calling at the ports of Mollendo, in Peru, or Arica and Antofagasta, in Chile, or via the east coast, by means of one of the numerous steamers calling at the ports of Para, in Brazil, or at Buenos Aires, in the Argentine Republic.

The principal routes to the interior of the country are as follows:

Mollendo route.—From Mollendo to Puno, by rail, 324 miles, twenty-two hours; from Puno to Guaqui, by steamer, crossing Lake Titicaca, 180 miles, sixteen hours; from Guaqui to La Paz, 59 miles, by rail, three hours; or a total distance of 563 miles covered in three and one-half days.

Arica route.—From Arica to La Paz the distance is 337 miles, which is made in seven days, as follows: Arica to Tacna, by rail, 39 miles; Tacna to Viacha, 280 miles, by mule, donkey, or llama; Viacha to La Paz, 18 miles, by rail.

Antofagasta route.—The total distance from the port of Antofagasta to Oruro is 573 miles, which can be covered in three days, by rail. The railway is divided into two sections—the Chilean section, from Antofagasta to Ollague, and the Bolivian section, from Ollague to Oruro, via Uyuni.

Amazon route.—From the port of Para, in Brazil, to Villa Bella and Puerto Acre, a distance of 2,152 miles from the former and 2,533 miles from the latter point, covered in two hundred and sixteen and two hundred and forty-four hours, respectively. The entire trip is made in vessels along the navigable rivers of Brazil and Bolivia.

Argentine route.—From Buenos Aires, by rail, to the Bolivian frontier town of La Quiaca, and thence by mule train to Tupiza and Tarija, a total distance of 1,850 miles. From Buenos Aires the trip can also be made by water, steamers sailing up the Paraguay River to Puerto Pacheco, Puerto Suarez, and La Gaiba, in Bolivia, being 1,553, 1,741, and 1,908 miles, respectively, distant from Buenos Aires. From Puerto Pacheco to La Paz the distance is 1,169 miles, from Puerto Suarez, 1,125, and from La Gaiba, 1,158 miles, respectively, to the city of La Paz, roads and bridle paths leading from these ports to the said city.

The time required to make the trip from New York to La Paz, via Mollendo or Antofagasta, is fifty-six days by direct steamer, or thirty-seven days with transshipment at Panama. From San Francisco to La Paz the trip can be made in forty-three days by direct steamer.

Bolivia has a net of rivers, which afford excellent means of transportation and communication, the entire length of her navigable rivers being about 12,000 miles. Of these, the Paraguay River is navigable for some 1,100 miles for steamers of 8 to 10 feet draft, the Itenes for 1,000 miles, the Beni likewise, but for steamers of 6 feet draft only, while the Pilcomayo, Mamore, Madre de Dios, Itonama, Sara, Orton, Baures, Inambary, Paragua, Pirai, Chapare, Abuna, Yacuma, and Rio Desaguadero are all navigable for light-draft vessels for distances varying from 200 to 1,000 miles.

A regular line of steamers is maintained on Lake Titicaca, situated at an altitude of 12,900 feet and having an area of 4,000 square miles, being thus not only the highest, but also one of the largest lakes on the American continent. Lake Aullagas is connected with Lake Titicaca by means of the Rio Desaguadero. The principal open ports on Lake Titicaca are Escoma, Ancoraimes, Huata, Puerto Perez, Carabuco, and Guaqui or Huaqui.

A number of steamers, launches, and other river craft afford transport on nearly all of the navigable rivers, especially on the Madre de Dios, Beni, Mamore, and their respective tributaries, while on the Bermejo River a regular line of steamers plies between the cities of Esquina Grande and Rivadavia, thus establishing connection with the Argentine Republic.

A decree dated November 13, 1908, authorizes the establishing and maintenance, for a period of ten years, of an automobile service for the carriage of goods between the points at present reached by the Central Northern Argentine Railway in La Quiaca and the towns of Uyuni, Tupiza, Potosi, and Sucre. No import duties will be levied on the importation of any material necessary for the service during the term of the concession.

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

The postal and telegraph services showed satisfactory progress during 1908 and various improvements were marked by increased efficiency in both departments. In the postal service new offices were created in different parts of the Republic, and in the telegraphic service the reconstruction and repair of existing lines, the construction of numerous additions to existing mileage, and the opening of 5 wireless telegraph stations marked the progressive spirit of the Government.

Bolivia is a member of the Universal Postal Union, and correspondence is dispatched to all countries belonging to that Union. There are 277 postal employees and 192 post-offices in the Republic, the main post-office being at La Paz. In 1908 the number of pieces of foreign mail matter received was 988,923, and the number of pieces sent abroad during the same period aggregated 375,318.

The telegraph system of the Republic comprises 2,986 miles, 2,088 miles of which are the property of the State, operating 113 offices. Telegraph lines run to all the capitals of the Departments, and the Government has under consideration the equipment of several high-power wireless stations.

Bolivia does not belong to the Universal Telegraphic Union. Telegraphic communication is had with Peru, Chile, and the Argentine Republic, and cable communication over the lines of the Central

